

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

PLEASE AMEND the specification by substituting the paragraph beginning at P11/L29 and ending at P12/L3 with the following:

a1
As noted above, both the control software and the message can be erased and reprogrammed via programming connector 24. Figure 1 illustrates how, in the preferred embodiment, LED matrix 21, battery 25, and the control circuit (consisting of PCB 30, MCU 22, and flip-flop IC 23) are all integrally housed with each other by cover 32. Due to the compactness of this integral housing, for programming via connector 24 in the disclosed embodiment, battery 25 must be removed to allow the connector to plug into the optional seven-way edge socket forming connector 24, shown in Figure 3. Battery holder 27 ensures correct alignment of the external programming device with edge socket 24.

PLEASE ADD the following paragraph immediately after the one at P18/L12-20:

a2
As mentioned above, a compact power source can (but need not) be replaced by an external power connector. In variations of the embodiments of Figures 13-16 that include a compact power source rather than such a connector, each case encloses a compact power source, array of pixel display elements, and graphics controller (see Figure 17) that are thus integrally housed with each other. The cases illustrated in Figures 13-16 are shaped like rectangular prisms, with the case of Figures 15-16 being essentially cubical.